

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02821 080037Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02
PM-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-01 /078 W
-----057147 080040Z /64

O 072126Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2463

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02821

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUANDA MEETING OF
CONTACT GROUP WITH SWAPO

1. SWAPO UN REPRESENTATIVE THEO-BEN GURIRAB INFORMED US
FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 7, THAT SWAPO WISHED THE FOLLOWING
SWAPO MEMBERS IN WINDHOEK TO BE PRESENT IN LUANDA FOR THE
PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE CONTACT GROUP JULY 10-12:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 02821 080037Z

- HENDRIK WITBOOI
- ADVOCATE ASER PICKERING
- REV. FESTUS NAHOLO
- FRANZ KABANGULA
- LUCIA HAMUTENYA
- ANTON KAHUIKA

OF THESE SIX, WITBOOI IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AND NAHOLO AND KABANGULA ARE IN DETENTION. (BOTH WITBOOI AND NAHOLO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROXIMITY TALKS IN NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY.) GURIRAB STATED THAT ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON MIGHT BE ADDED TO THIS LIST BUT THAT IT COULD BE ASSUMED THAT THE ADDITIONAL PERSON WOULD NOT BE IN DETENTION OR UNDER ANY OTHER RESTRICTIONS.

2. AFTER REPEATED CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS HERE, WE INFORMED GURIRAB ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE THAT AMEMBASSY PRETORIA WAS MAKING THE NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEVEN SWAPO MEMBERS TO TRAVEL TO LUANDA IN TIME FOR THE JULY 10 MEETING. WE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT THE FIVE IN PRETORIA WERE APPROACHING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE TWO DETAINED SWAPO MEMBERS MENTIONED ABOVE. IN THAT REGARD, WE ADVISED GURIRAB THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD ALREADY AGREED TO LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS ON HENDRIK WITBOOI AND THAT HE WAS FREE TO TRAVEL.

3. GURIRAB SEEMED SATISFIED WITH OUR ASSURANCE THAT THE FIVE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT THE TWO DETAINEES WERE PRESENT IN LUANDA FOR THE MEETING ON MONDAY. WHEN WE BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEIR RELEASE COULD NOT BE SECURED, GURIRAB REPLIED, "LET'S NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 02821 080037Z

THINK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW." WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD DEPART FOR LUANDA TONIGHT AS SCHEDULED, GURIRAB REPLIED, "OF COURSE. CERTAINLY." (THE CONTACT GROUP THEREFORE PLANS TO DEPART FOR LUANDA TONIGHT, FRIDAY, JULY 7.) COMMENT. WE HAVE LITTLE FEEL FOR THE IMPORTANCE WHICH SWAPO ATTACHES TO THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES PRIOR TO THE JULY 10 MEETING, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE GURIRAB MAY WELL ATTRIBUTE LESS IMPORTANCE TO IT THAN THE SWAPO MEMBERS IN LUANDA. GURIRAB HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED SAYING THAT THE JULY 10 MEETING IS CONDITIONAL ON THEIR RELEASE AND HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT IN THE END THE MEETING WOULD NOT BE CONDITIONAL ON THEIR RELEASE. SWAPO CLEARLY WANTS US TO PUSH THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON THIS MATTER, AND THE RELEASE MAY WELL BE CRUCIAL TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING IF NOT ITS OCCURRENCE. END COMMENT.

4. WE SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE ADRIAAN EKSTEEN AND ADVISED HIM OF THE SITUATION. WE STATED THAT ONE OF THE FIVE WAS MAKING A FORMAL APPROACH TO FOURIE IN PRETORIA ON THE DETAINEE QUESTION AND STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE RELEASE OF THESE TWO

SWAPO MEMBERS COULD HAVE ON OUR EFFORTS. EKSTEEN TOOK
ISSUE WITH SWAPO'S VIEW THAT THESE TWO PEOPLE WERE
IMPORTANT TO THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE FIVE'S
PROPOSAL, BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THEIR RELEASE COULD BE
SEEN AS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN DESIRE TO
FACILITATE A SETTLEMENT. HE AGREED TO REPORT TO
PRETORIA THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THEIR RELEASE.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT, "PEOPLE IN PRETORIA, PARTICULARLY
THE PRIME MINISTER, ARE TIRED OF GESTURES --
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE ALL COMING FROM ONE SIDE."
LEONARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NATIONALISTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0120
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780783/aaaacsgk.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c426479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2080823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUANDA MEETING OF CONTACT GROUP WITH SWAPO
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, SWAPO
To: STATE PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c426479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014